

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 XMB-07 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9062

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, DA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MAERSK AIR APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN AIR
CARRIER PERMIT

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS CAB AND EXIMBANK
LONDON FOR AIR ATTACHE

1. MANAGING DIRECTOR JOHAN PAUS OF MAERSK AIR
(AN A.P. MOLLER AFFILIATE), TOGETHER WITH LEGAL
COUNSEL FROM A.P. MOLLER, CALLED ON ECONOFF
MAY 28 TO EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER PROBLEMS
BEING CASUED MAERSK IN U.S.-DENMARK SUMMER CHAR-
TER FLIGHT PLANNING BY ALLEGED DELAY IN APPROVAL
OF THEIR FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT BY USG.
PAUS SAID APPLICATION WAS FILED AUGUST 22, 1973,
WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS IN DECEMBER FOLLOWED BY
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RECOMMENDATION FOR
APPROVAL IN FEBRUARY 1974. PAUS SAID HE INFORMALLY
UNDERSTOOD THAT CAB SUBSEQUENTLY ALSO RECOMMENDED
APPROVAL.

2. PROBLEMS, AS PAUS OUTLINED IT, IS THAT MAERSK
AIR HAD BEEN ASSURED (PRESUMABLY THROUGH THEIR
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WASHINGTON LAWYERS --COVINGTON & BURLING) THAT

APPROVAL WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AT LATEST MAY 1. PLANNING THEREFORE PROCEEDED ACCORDINGLY AND TEN FLIGHTS (BOTH DIRECTIONS) HAVE ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULED. MOREOVER, HE EMPHASIZED THE LONG, CAREFUL PLANNING WHICH A.P. MOLLER GROUP PUT INTO PROJECT, STARTING WITH PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON IN 1971, FOLLOWED BY PURCHASE OF FIVE B-720B'S FROM NORTHWEST IN EARLY 1973, PARTLY FINANCED BY EXIMBANK. PRESENT UNCERTAINTY, HE CLAIMED, IS CAUSING A.P. MOLLER GROUP CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS. GIVEN WELL-KNOWN SERIOUSNESS AND CAPABILITIES OF A.P. MOLLER, AS WELL AS GROUP'S CLOSE BUSINESS AND PERSONAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH U.S., PAUS SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER DELAY IN APPROVAL OF AIR PERMIT FOR WHICH MAERSK AIR HAD FULFILLED ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

3. PAU SAID HE BROUGHT HIS CONCERNS TO EMBASSY IN HOPES WE COULD HELP CLARIFY STATUS OF APPLICATION AND OBTAIN RAPID RESOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED REPRESENTATIONS WILL ALSO BE MADE SHORTLY THROUGH DANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. ECONOFF SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON STATUS OF APPLICATION AND SUGGESTED THAT TIME FRAME OUTLINED BY PAUS DOES NOT INDICATE UNUSUAL DELAY. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO INQUIRE INTO MATTER TO SEE IF ANY INFORMATION CAN AT THIS POINT, BE PROVIDED TO MAERSK AIR.

4. COMMENT: A.P. MOLLER GROUP, RUN BY GROUP CHAIRMAN MAERSK MCKINNEY MOLLER IN TRADITIONAL ENTREPRENEUR FASHION, IS PROUD OF ITS WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION AND SENSITIVE TO ANY ACTION CASTING DOUBT (HOWEVER UNFOUNDED) ON ITS INTEGRITY. PAUS IMPLIED THAT REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY PLUS CLOSENESS OF A.P. MOLLER'S ASSOCIATION WITH U.S. IN BROAD RANGE OF BUSINESS DEALINGS SHOULD ASSURE LEGITIMACY OF MAERSK AIR APPLICATION AND ITS RAPID APPROVAL. WHILE THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACTORS ARE SECONDARY TO PRESENT ISSUE, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH THIS IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF MAERSK'S APPLICATION AS THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES POSSIBLE.

ACTION REQUESTED. STATUS REPORT ON MAERSK AIR

APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT.
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